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To: EIS\_Comments@ymp.gov  
cc:  
Subject: EIS Comment

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IP address: 208.120.104.140

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The Commentors Name:

---> Ms. Suzanne L McGoldrick

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The Commentors Address:

---> 4047 Pennsburg Ct.  
---> Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

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Email Information:

---> smcgoldrick@cox.net; drpantuso@cox.net  
---> Add commentor to the mailing list : yes

~~~~~  
Contact Information:

---> fax number :  
---> phone number : 702 987 5244  
---> organization :  
---> position :

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Comment Text :

--> Address to Department of Energy  
reference supplemental DEIS regarding Yucca Mountain Project  
DOE/EIS-0250F-S1D  
DOE/EIS-0250F-S2D

Gentlemen, I have had the opportunity to review the two supplemental DEIS regarding Yucca Mountain and I want to submit the following comments. In regards to these two EIS's, I feel that because it has been determined that Yucca Mtn repository site is located on a major earthquake fault, the most serious impact of having the repository there is in the handling of the casks or TAD's (transport, aging, and disposal casks) at the surface facilities, which could be impacted most in the event of an earthquake. The robotic manipulators handling the process of changing the shipping casks to the storage casks might be compromised in the event of a quake and there might be a serious loss of containment resulting in radioactive waste leakage. First off, from my research I have learned that the TAD'S don't even exist yet and have yet to be developed and tested properly to determine the absolute safety of them for their transportation of the nuclear waste. They are merely in the theory stage at this time. There are no engineering or prototype results to substantiate them. They may not even have the engineering plans before the June '09 application date. It sounds to me as if the DOE is trying to shortchange the process by doing these impact statements in advance of the information needed about the TAD's. It really should be after they are developed and tested that a DEI should be assembled. With current information, there is enough radiation coming through the walls of the casks,

to give a whole body dose of an XRay every hour. They have no radiation shielding and would need overpack to further protect the contents. Even a small break in the welded bolted seals could result in gas leakage of the fission products. It is suggested that the waste materials should be cooled for at least 50 years before even thinking of transport, and to my understanding, it is the desire of the DOE to transport these wastes that have only cooled for 5-10 years. It has yet to be determined how the casks might be effected if the earth shifts from a quake which might destroy the casks, breaking the welded seals or even completely. This leads me to believe that the waste within might seep into our ground water supplies, eventually making it's way to human habitation and consumption resulting in human health risks and billions of dollars in damage. Not a good idea at all.]

- 2 [Regarding the transportation of the waste materials by truck and rail, again the TAD's have yet to be developed and tested properly so we do not know the overall safety of them in the event of accidents.] The railway routes suggested are either thru the Mina corridor or the Caliente corridor. [The Mina corridor, may not even be an option because the corridor goes through a portion of the Pauite Indian lands and to date, the indians changed their minds about the route and have withdrawn their support entirely from this project which means this route probably should be abandoned entirely.] [The proposed railway lines through both routes would impact ranchlands, mining lands, private property, and recreational lands. The DOE suggests that ranchers grazing allotments and production levels might be affected by only 10% reductions but the ranchers themselves feel in reality the impact might be as much as 50%. Because of this, there is the possibility of driving many of the ranchers out of business because they are not operating from large profit margins to begin with.] [The Caliente proposed railway route would be the largest new railway project in over 80 years. It would be over rough terrain including mountain ranges which could present even more opportunity for accidental leakage of the nuclear wastes in the result in runaway train accidents. Because the route passes through private property, ranchlands, mining lands, and recreational lands there would be a terrible effect on human habitation and our wildlife ecosystems.]
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- 6 [The impacts of a proposed railway route from Caliente or Mina are really much larger than the DOE suggests and it is my opinion that we look for other alternatives than Yucca Mtn entirely.]
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